

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03122 090910Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, US

SUBJECT: CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY NOVEMBER 8 ON NUMBER OF MATTERS LATTER RAISED CROWN WITH ME IN MOST FORCEFUL WAY IT HAS COME UP SINCE I CAME HERE.

2. NAGY SAID CROWN WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN OUR RELATIONS BECAUSE ITS NON-RETURN OR RETURN SIGNIFIED A U.S. POLITICAL REACTION TOWARD HUNGARY'S LEGITIMACY (THOUGH HE DID NOT USE THAT PRECISE WORD). SAID THIS MATTER (AND EMOTIONAL CONTENT OF IT) CREPT INTO ALL KINDS OF OTHER ISSUES, EVEN APPARENTLY SMALL ONES. IN THIS SENSE CROWN WAS MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE THAN CZECH GOLD OR ANY OTHER SUCH MATTERS, NONE OF WHICH CARRIED ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL CONNOTATION. AFTER ALL THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IT WAS HARD TO SEE WHAT BASIS WE HAD FOR RETAINING SOMETHING WE RECOGNIZED AS BELONGING TO HUNGARIAN PEOPLE, UNLESS WE WERE IN FACT STILL RELUCTANT TO RECOGNIZE GOV'T'S STATUS.

3. I REPLIED THAT I HAD CONSISTENTLY SAID SINCE COMING HERE THAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE FIRST ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, ESPECIALLY ON MFN. MFN AND ITS RESULTS SHOULD BRING ABOUT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. QUESTION OF CROWN WAS ONE OF GENERAL NATURE OF US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. IT WAS IMPORTANT, IF THIS WAS THE CASE, THAT HUNGARY CONVEY TO U.S. A SENSE OF

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 03122 090910Z

MOTIVATION TO IMPROVE U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS BROADLY--

NOT JUST IN FIELDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY, AND NOT JUST AS PART OF IMPROVEMENT OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST GENERALLY. IT WAS ON OVERALL JUDGMENT OF HOW INTERESTED GOH REALLY WAS THAT U.S. JUDGMENTS ON ALL KINDS OF POINTS ARE MADE. I SAID SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESSS HAD BEEN MADE IN LAST FEW YEARS, BUT CURVE SEEMED TO HAVE FLATTENED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY, DEAK CASE HAD DONE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE, AND THERE WAS SOME QUESTION AT HOME, AND IN MY MIND, ABOUT HOW FAR GOH REALLY WANTED TO GO. NAGY SAID GOH WANTED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND VIEWED MINFONTRADE BIRO'S FORTHCOMING VISIT AS HAVING SUCH EFFECT AS WELL AS ITS PRIMARILY ECONOMIC INTENTION.

4. COMMENT: NAGY DID NOT ANSWER MY QUESTION ANY MORE THAN I DID HIS, BUT HE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MY REMARKS, AS I DID TO HIS. HE DID SAY THAT DIFFERENCE IN TONE VIS-A-VIS U.S. BETWEEN FONMIN'S ADDRESSES IN PARLIAMENT LAST SPRING AND IN UNGA THIS FALL WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL. I INFER FROM HIS REMARKS THAT ISSUE OF CROWN HAS RECENTLY BEEN DROPPED INTO SOME OTHER SPECIFIC ISSUE IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS FROM SOMEWHERE HIGH. IN ANY EVENT HIS COMMENTS SHOW THAT THE SENSITIVITY ABOUT WHAT ITS RETURN SYMBOLIZES (I.E. ACCEPTABILITY) IS INDEED STRONG IN IMPORTANT PLACES--NO DOUBT WITH KADAR IN PARTICULAR.
PEDERSEN

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